

ACI Surveys on Accreditation systems in Europe

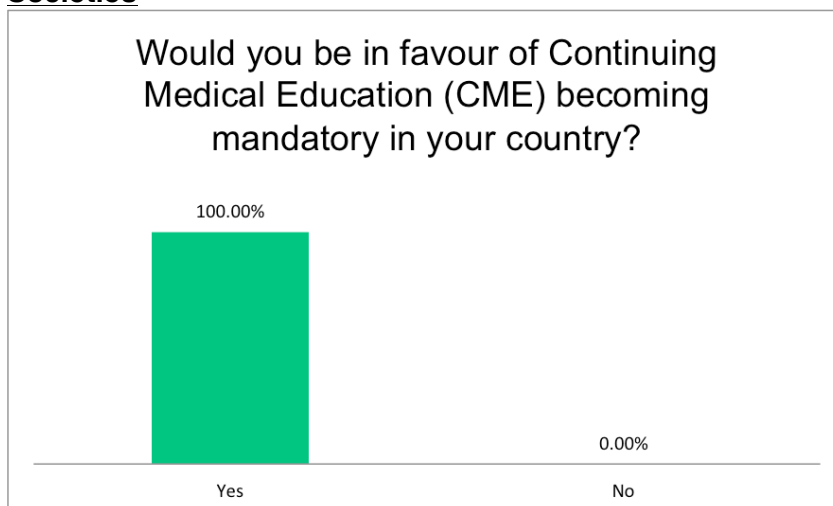
Being aware that accreditation systems in Europe have differences and vary from country to country, the Accreditation Council in Imaging (ACI) has recently (July 2017) conducted a survey in an attempt to collect the relevant data on accreditation systems in Europe.

Two surveys were prepared, the first one targeting the presidents of the ESR Institutional member societies (National Radiological Societies and Subspecialty Societies of European countries) and Society delegates to the ESR Education Committee, and the second one, targeting all individual ESR members from Europe. The ACI received 65 responses from representatives of the ESR Institutional Member Societies and 2316 responses from ESR individual members from Europe in total.

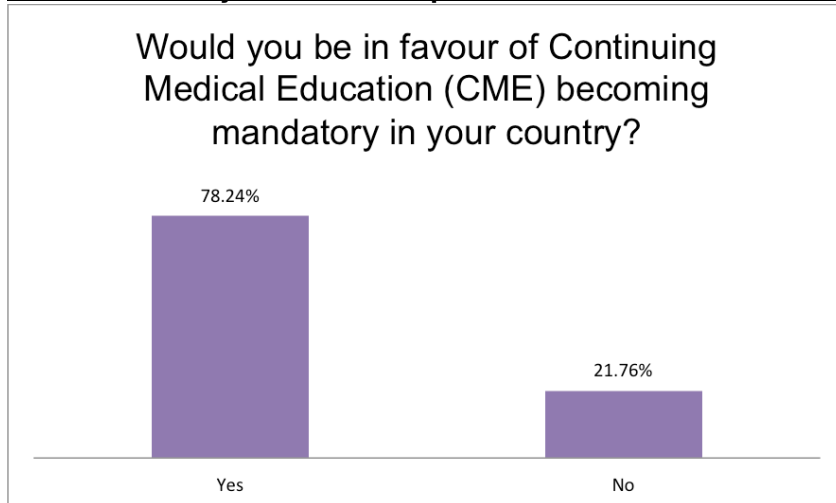
Although the data received demonstrated inhomogeneity and inconsistency on several specific issues about accreditation systems, both surveys provided valuable information on pronounced differences in accreditation systems in European countries, but also reflected some, in our opinion, important preferences of the broad radiological community.

According to the data received, the Continuing Medical Education (CME) system has been introduced in most European countries (78.46%), and has been indicated as mandatory by 64.71% of survey respondents. It is notable though that all representatives from ESR Institutional Member Societies (100%) and 78.24% of individual ESR members from Europe would support mandatory CME.

Accreditation systems in Europe – Representatives of ESR Institutional Member Societies

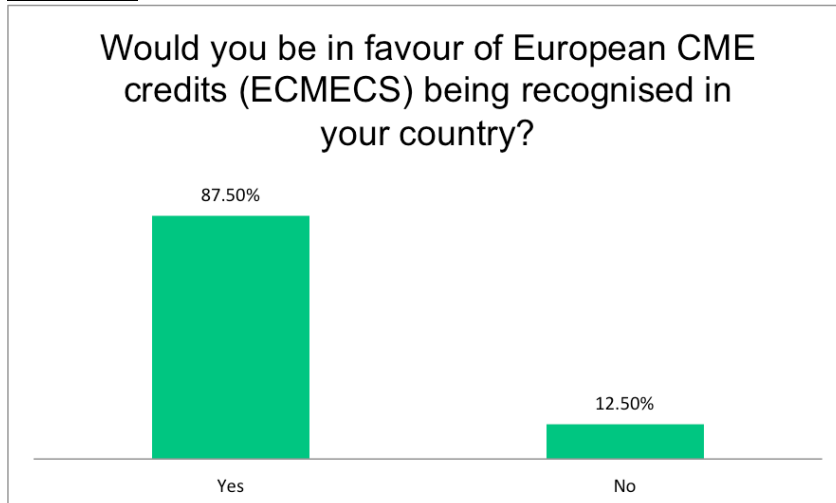


Accreditation systems in Europe – ESR Individual members from Europe

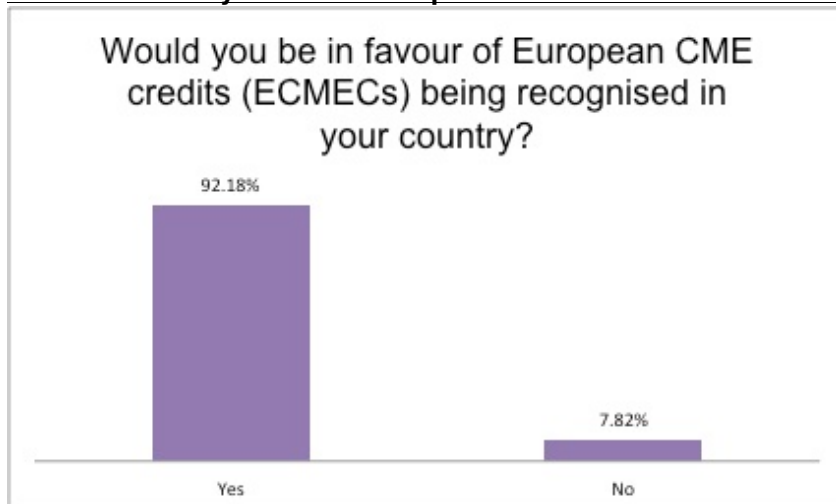


European Continuing Medical Education Credits (ECMEC's), as CME credits registered by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) and its European Accreditation Council for CME (EACCME), that facilitate the exchange of CME credits between European countries, between different specialties and between European credit systems and comparable systems outside Europe, were indicated as equivalent "token" by 49.15% respondents, recognized but not equivalent by 10.17%, and 13.56% of respondents indicated that only national CME credits are recognized in their countries. The large majority of ESR Institutional Member Societies representatives' respondents (87.50%) and ESR individual members (92.18%) would though support universal and equivalent recognition of ECMEC's.

Accreditation systems in Europe – Representatives of ESR Institutional Member Societies



Accreditation systems in Europe – ESR Individual members from Europe

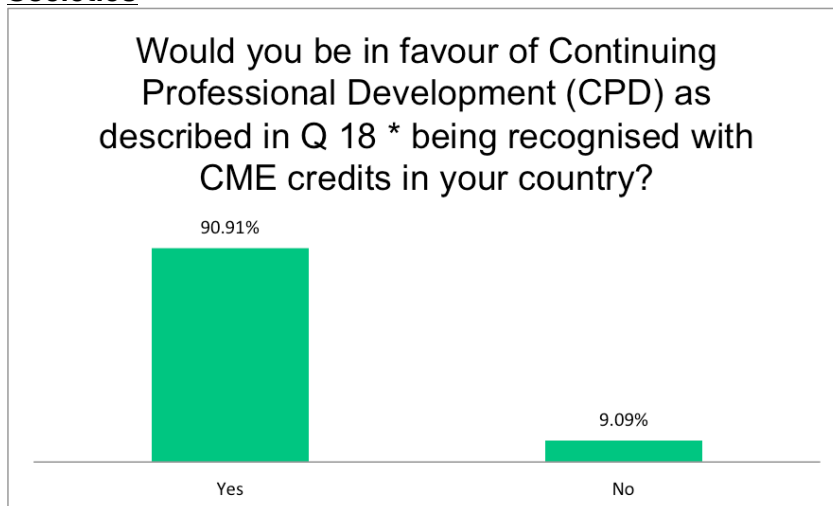


The system of revalidation, relicensing or recertification has been indicated as existing by 45.90% of survey respondents, yet overall, only a thin majority (56.25%) would support revalidation, relicensing and recertification becoming mandatory. According to the data received, in countries where revalidation, relicensing or recertification is not present or compulsory, the large majority of respondents would not support the introduction of mandatory revalidation, although there were several exceptions noted, like Portugal, Spain, Greece, Norway and Turkey, where obligatory revalidation would be supported.

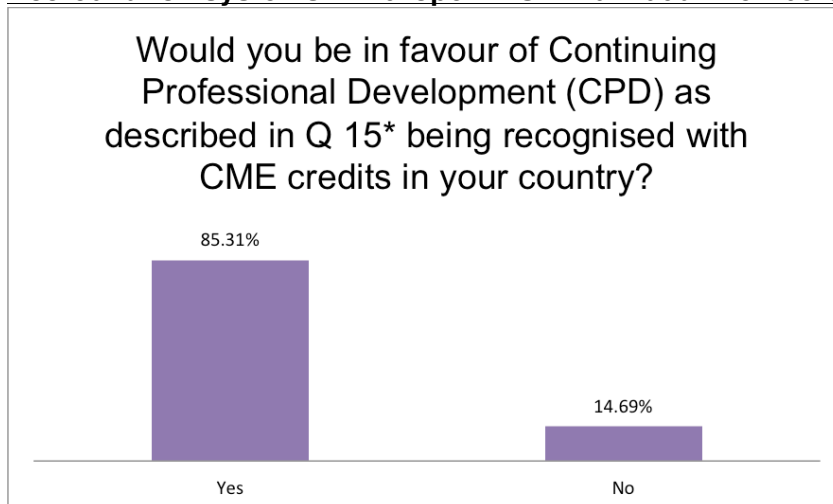
A newly introduced Continuing Professional Development (CPD), that includes activities other than attending live educational events, like reviewing and/or publishing scientific and educational material, learning by teaching, or taking part as an examiner in a board/subspecialty

examination, is already recognized in some countries, as indicated by 52.27% respondents, at the moment, mostly without a yearly limitation of credits to be claimed (78.26%). It is necessary to stress the fact that the vast majority of respondents would support the recognition of CPD (90.91% of representatives of ESR Institutional Member Societies, and 85.31% of individual ESR members from Europe respondents), although limiting the number of CPD credits per year to be claimed (71.79%).

Accreditation systems in Europe – Representatives of ESR Institutional Member Societies



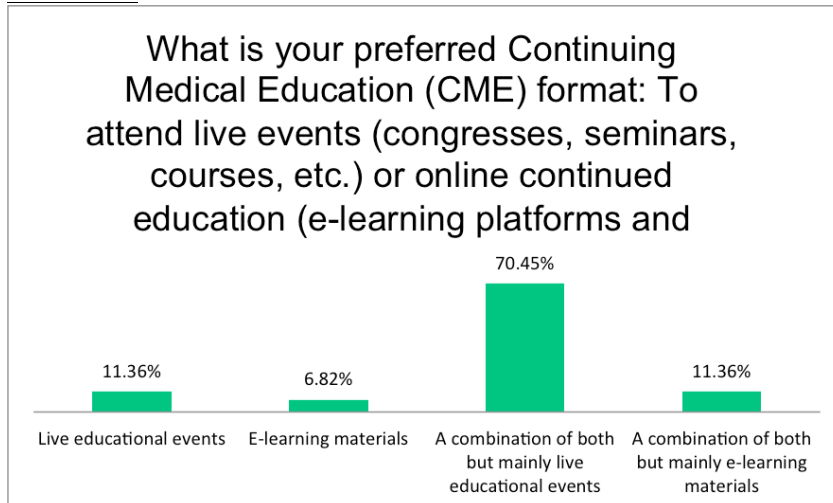
Accreditation systems in Europe – ESR Individual members from Europe



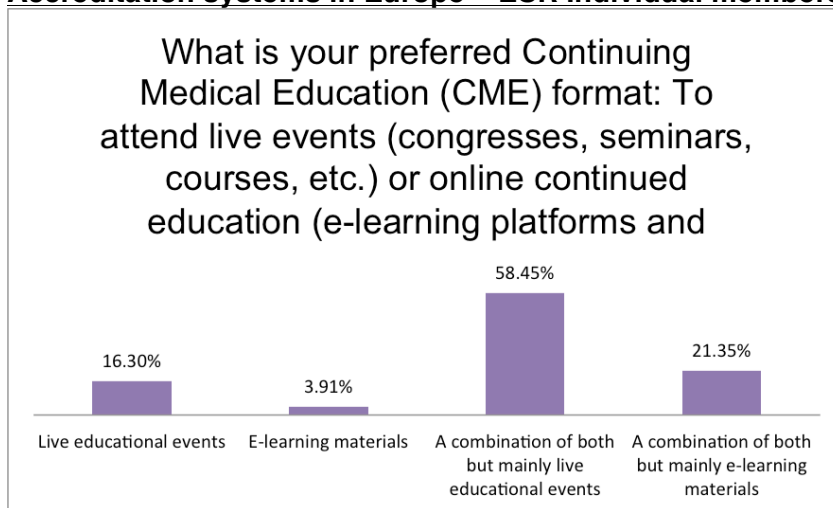
* Reviewing scientific and educational material, publishing scientific and educational material, learning by teaching, examiner in a board/ subspecialty examination)

Though collecting CME credits through electronic learning material (ELM) has been indicated as recognized in the countries of 64.91% respondents, a significant majority of radiologists still prefer a combination of both, but mainly live educational events (LEE), e.g. congresses, schools, seminars, etc.

Accreditation systems in Europe – Representatives of ESR Institutional Member Societies



Accreditation systems in Europe – ESR Individual members from Europe



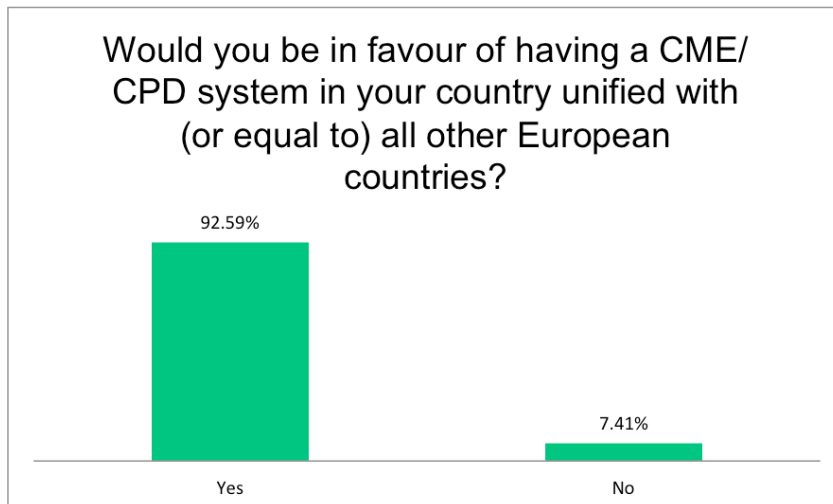
By analysing the survey responses, the ACI has both learned and confirmed that there is a broad scale of differences in accreditation systems Europewide, with specificities varying not only from country to country, but also within the same country, likewise in Germany, where each Federal State has a medical chamber.

Marked inconsistencies and contraries, demonstrated by very inhomogeneous data provided by respondents on several specific issues, as for example on identifying their national accreditation

authorities and ECMEC’s “exchange” course, but also in general knowledge on accreditation, leaves behind an impression of uncertainty regarding the comprehension and information about CME/CPD systems among the broad European radiological community, raising the question of whether there is a need for systematic and more detailed clarification of the CME/CPD systems in Europe and its equivalence to the UEMS accreditation system at European level.

To conclude, it is important to highlight one relevant tendency, that emerged from the survey data analyzed, and it is that the unification of CME/CPD systems within Europe would be supported by the vast majority of respondents (92.59% of ESR Institutional Member Societies, and 90.45% of ESR individual members), which we shall consider as the "voice of European radiology" for the future.

Accreditation systems in Europe – Representatives of ESR Institutional Member Societies



Accreditation systems in Europe – ESR Individual members from Europe

